Nuggets of News

Gold Hill Historical Society
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Newsletter of events, hisorical stories and photographs for members and friends of the Gold Hill Historical Society - Established 1986
Meetings are held 3rd Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m.
at the Historical Society Museum, 504 First Avenue, Gold Hill, Oregon (except for August when the Annual Picnic/Potluck is held at noon on the 3rd Sunday).
Museum hours Memorial Day through Labor Day - Noon to 4 p.m., Wednesday through Sunday.
Labor Day through Memorial Day - Noon to 4 p.m. Friday through Sunday.
Closed Holidays - Admission FREE (Donations accepted.)

ELECTIONS

Annual elections were held at the February meeting with the following results:
President: Cindy Faubion
Vice-President: Ida Tilley
Secretary: Janet Sessions
Treasurer: Maureen Smith
Members at Large: Barbara Finnie, Cliff Finnie, Lyn Parker, Ted Wharton

Many thanks to all who have served so faithfully and effectively in these positions in the past and to Janet, who continues to serve. A hearty welcome to the new officers with much appreciation for their willingness to serve in these capacities. (See Message from Cindy Faubion on page 7.)

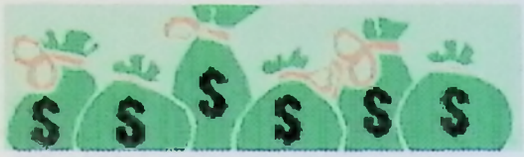
Next Meeting:
February 20, 2001
6:30 p.m.

Happy Valentine's Day to all!

Membership Dues

Just a reminder:

Dues were due for 2002 on January 1, 2002. Check your mailing label – if the number following your name is 02 or higher, your dues have been paid. If the number behind your name is 01, your dues have not been received. **You can save us postage by using the form at the end of this newsletter to send in your dues so that no reminder is necessary.** If nothng is heard from you within a week, we will send out a notice. Thanks so much in advance for your



BUDGET 2002/2003

Our budget for fiscal year 1002/2003 was finalized after many hours of pouring over past financial statements and trying to predict what the future holds for utility rates and other costs associated with operating the Museum. The budget was submitted to Southern Oregon Historical Society who packages the budgets of all members of the Jackson County History Museum Association and then presents the entire package to Jackson County in one package. County budget hearings take place in the Spring of each year. More on this in a subsequent newsletter.

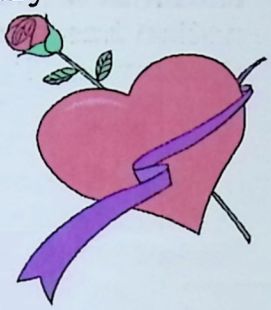
Christmas Past

Many thanks to Brian and Sharon Hettman, our young volunteers, who toted all the Christmas decorations from upstairs and then assembled and decorated our tree so beautifully. It was enjoyed by visitors to the Museum, as well as those who attended the Annual Chriistmas Hors d'oeuvre and Dessert meeting.

Joy Miralles was the winner of the beautiful handmade latch-hooked rug crafted and donated by Winona Nichols. The drawing was held at the Christmas meeting. Joy is a resident of Arizona and visited the Museum during her vacation. Museum member Eugenia Hawkins, Joy's aunt, who lives in Talent, picked up the rug and will forward it to her.

Valentine Vogue

During the time of Charles II of England, it was the custom to accept the first person of the opposite sex one might chance to see on the morning of February 14 to be your Valentine. Shakespeare refers to this tradition in *Hamlet*. Gifts and greetings were exchanged In his February 14, 1662, diary entry Samuel Pepys wrote, "I did this day purposely shun to be seen at Sir W. Batten's because I would not have his daughter to be my Valentine, as she was last year, there being no great friendship between us." Sometmes the gifts were costly. Pepys stated that his own gifts varied from one pound for a housemaid who had seen him first on the morning of February 14 to five pounds for Mrs. Pepys, who had seen him first on another St. Valentine's morning. He had tried to keep out of her sight knowing it would be costly, but he failed.



Current Events, A Condensed Newspaper, Weekly. For Use in Public and Private Schools, February 10, 1911

DON'T FORGET THIS DATE

MARCH 14, 2002
1 P.M. AT I.O.O.F. Hall
2nd Avenue, Gold Hill
Gloria Wood presents "A Woman's Place" slide presentation in celebration of Women's History Month.

National Anthem Anniversary Coming Up. Do you know when?

Until 1931, the United States of America did not have an official National Anthem, something the nation has heard many times since September 11, 2001. Songs such as *Hail Columbia, My Country 'Tis of Thee,* and even *Yankee Doodle* were used frequently.

When the Veterans of Foreign Wars joined the movement to adopte the patriotic poem written by Francis Scott Key, *The Star Spangled Banner,* the movement met with success.

The poem, written in the War of 1812, was set to music and on March 3, 1931, the United States Congress unanimously adopted it as the National Anthem.

So, now you know, if you didn't before.

Courtesy of Oregon Veterans of Foreign Wars

A WOMAN'S PLACE

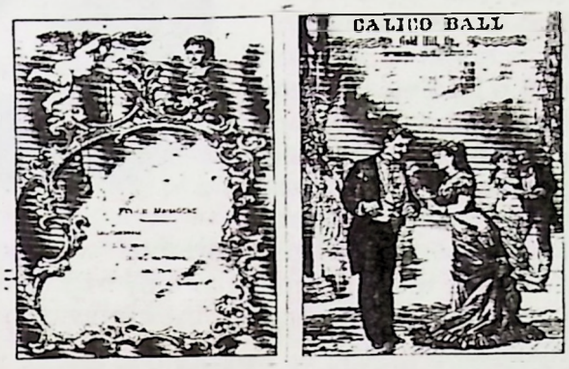
In celebration of Women's History Month, a slide presentation prepared by the Southern Oregon Historical Society will be presented on March 14, 2002, at 1:00 p.m. at the Gold Hill I.O.O.F. Hall on Second Avenue.

Gloria Wood will provide the narration for this tribute to Rogue Valley women for the roles they filled from the 1850's up until WWI.

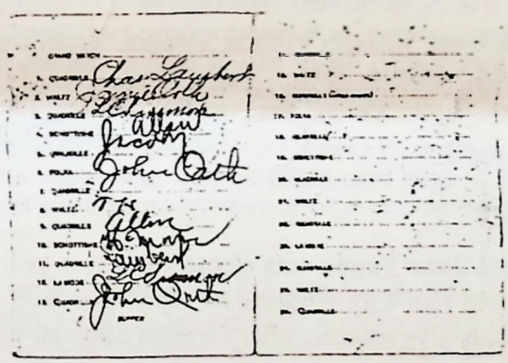
Refreshments will be served following the program. Admission is free.

Calico Ball

The Calico Ball was held on February 27, 1893 in Gold Hill. The dance card of twenty-one year old **Margaret Chavner** had only one blank line for the first thirteen dances of the evening. Among her partners for the quadrille, waltz, schottishe, and polka were John Orth, Charles Lambert, L. C. Sizemore, and Mr. Jacoby. Supper was served during the intermission. We presume that Margaret left theh event after supper, since the remainder of her dance card is blank



Back and front cover of Miss Chavner's Dance Card for the Calico Ball in Gold Hill, February 27, 1893.



Inside of dance card showing Miss Chavner's dancing partners before supper.

In 1898, just five years after the Calico Ball, Margaret served as the Representative from Jackson County for the State Equal Suffrage Association. This group was influential in the 1912 Oregon Legislature's aproval of women's rights to vote.

Your newsletter has been compiled, edited, and assembled this month by Gloria Wood and Barbara Finnie with computer consultation, proofreading and assembly help from Cliff Finnie. If you want to help with any aspect of your Museum newsletter please contact the Museum. Your help would be greatly appreciated.

Women's History Month - March

Abigail Scott Duniway (1894 - 1915) is credited with beng the foremost leader in the struggle for women's suffrage in the northwest. Oregon granted women the right to vote in 1912 and Abigail was the first woman to register, as well as the first to cast her vote. She had traveled throughout Oregon and Washington in her crusade for the rights of women. Her views were not always welcome. In 1879, in a visit to Jacksonville, the audience threw eggs and she was burned in effigy. Recalling her role in the movement for women's equal rights, Duniway often asserted that "women did not want to rule over men, as they might imagine, but were asking only for their individual rights and liberties.

"After all," she continued, "a man who could be ruled by a woman would be worth corralling after she had driven him home."

Barrett, Carol. Women's Roots in Southern Oregon and Northern California, 1993

Eriksen, Shelley, Oregon Heritage, Winter/Spring 1995.

SOHS #8286

Cora Truax (right) on her 100th birthday in 1965 with her daughter, Mary Truax Hendricks *Photo from Museum files (ask Gloria #)*

Mary Truax Hendricks, daughter of Wesley and Cora Truax, graduated from Gold Hil lHigh School in 1915. She received a degree in journlism frm the Universitity of Oregon in 1921. For a year during World War I, she worked in Washingotn, D.C. in military intelligence. This must have been a great adventure for a small town girl. Mary and Ray Ross Hendricks were united in marriage in 1925. They owned and operated the Berrydale Flower Farm and Nursery on Table Rock Road.

Mrs. Hendricks was an active volunteer serving in the WWI Auxiliary, Rogue Valley Council on Aging, Jackson County Senior Citizens Club and the University of Oregon Alumni Association. She died in 1988 at the age of 91.

Cora Jane Truax was elected to a two-year term on the Gold Hill City Council on April 12, 1913. This was only five months after Oregon adopted women's suffrage, giviing women the right to vote. It is believed that she was the first woman in the state of Oregon to be voted into public office. During her term of office the Council approved the "extension of water and sewer lines and the building of cement sidewalks, with the improvements of streets and street lighting." In 1914, the speed of trains through town began being regulated and painted signs stating that automobile drivers were not to exceed 12 miles per hour through the town of Gold Hill. Mrs. Truax did not seek reelection in 1915. She remained active in th Republican party and served on election boards for more than 28 years.

Cora and her husband, Wesley W. Truax, moved from Michigan to Eagle Point in 1908. Later, they moved to Gold Hill with their daughter, Mary, and son, where Cora took a job at the Gold Hill Hotel. Wesley found work at the Braden Mine. They later owned and operated the Gold Hill Cafe as well as other busines ventures.

Mary Truax Hendricks in her Easter finery, 1909. *Gold Hill Historical Society photo #13.7.01 (?)*

Come to the Museum and see the Truax Family Exhibit including more family photographs.

THE LUCKY BART MINE By Ted Wharton/January 2002

Preface: Early prospecting and workings of claims.

The "Lucky Bart Group", established in 1892, was the combination of five veins discovered by a number of prospectors following the initial discovery of rough gold at the mouth of a gully above the west bank of the west fork of Sardine Creek. Among the prospectors covered in this story were Barney Kirkpatrick and W. N. Ward, who found good prospecting as early as 1880. In 1890, Joseph Cox filed the first claim in the northwest ¼ of Sect 29 and the southeast ¼ of Sect 30, T355, R3W. By 1892, eleven claims were to become incorporated into the Lucky Bart Group. Initial owner Joseph Cox, thinking they were only finding occasional "pockets", sold out to greenhorn Bart Signorotti, hence the name "Lucky Bart".

I. To bring our story into perspective, following are some of the miners and their activities following the 1880 discovery, and prior to the 1890 filing by Joseph Cox:

ED HUGHES - found fine gold in vicinity of where the first tunnel was dug.
MUNDEN and **EATON** - found west extension of a vein and a pocket where it joined the ledge.
MAX P. JACOBY and JOE **HAMMERSLY** - prospected the vein following it underground after using dowsing (witching) sticks from Joe's peach tree. While walking backwards uphill and using the dowsing sticks, Max fell into a prospecting hole, breaking his nose glasses. Then, being of poor vision, he wandered off and got lost. Joe spent the afternoon hunting for him, while using language unbefitting a Christian and not suitable to use around proper ladies. Max returned to his Gold Hill Merchatile Store, Duffield & Jacoby, firmly convinced he had located the main vein with the writhing forked peach limb, which had caused him to stumble. Upon numerous return trips he was unable to find the spot again. Meanwhile....
A .J. BARLOW - was prospecting beyond the west side of the area between Sardine Creek and Evans Creek. To impress the locals, he professed to know a lot about mining and spouted off in long dissertations about stratified formations, porphyry, quartz ledges, mica schist serpentine, fault lines, metamorphosed sediment, and fine powdered gold in black sand. He didn't want to sound ignorant around the old timers, but soon showed his stupidity when telling of his amalgamation results.
TEX DRENNEN - was prospecting the east fork of Sardine Creek and pronounced the Jacoby and Hammersly story that they had found the main ledge as humbug. At the same time it was to be noted that the...
SEXHAUER brothers and a **MR. BROWNMAN** - were getting good prospects of rough ledge gold in the channel of middle fork of Sardine Creek, northwest and one ridge over from the claim on west fork.
Assayer and surveyor **NICK NICHOLS**- had previously looked over the general area and in a news release to the Gold Hill News announced that the general strike of the veins was east of north and dips to the southeast at generally high angles. He pronounced there would be a blanket vein of high-grade oxidized ore. Later working at the mine proved his estimates to be correct.

II. Research of old letters, legal forms, government documents, and stories passed down gives the basis for the approximate history of the famous Lucky Bart Mine. With mining success over a span of 77 years, the operation of the mine and mill changed hands many times, but the basic owners, the Beeman family, held onto the investment. After J. H. Beeman had the five-stamp mill installed (now standing at the Gold Hill Historical Society Museum) the mine and mill ran a number of years with a steam engine and wood fired boiler. In 1936, John Breeding upgraded the mill with a two cycle John Deere 925/diesel engine. This engine is now restored and standing under the original five-stamp mill at the museum in Gold Hill. Most records after 1940 were lost or destroyed but the located operating records of the mine give the following statistics:

* Total ore milled, 14,000 tons as of 1938.
* Income, $200,000.00 as of 1940. Total production estimated at $1.8 million.
* Gold was $12.00 an ounce in 1900 - 1912.
* Average ore value was $100 to $130 per ton, with some batches much richer.

III. Following dates indicate owners or operators of the mine during its production years, and to date:
1890 - Joe Cox filed original claim, called "Buckskin".
1892 - Bart Signorotti purchased the claim and named it "Lucky Bart".
1893 - J. H. (Joe) Beeman leased from Bart, and installed the stamp mill.
1894 - John Mead bought the claim from Bart.
1895 - William Lampert leased it from Mead.
1896 - J. H. Beeman, who already owned the stamp mill, purchased the claim from Mead
1897 - J. Frank Brown leased and operated the claim for two years.
1899 - Hattie Beeman, with legal maneuvering, put name on title of claim.

(Lucky Bart Mine - continued next page)

(Lucky Bart Mine - continued)

1900 - J. G. Beeman resumed ownership, and built a home in Gold Hill, later to become the GHHS Museum.
1904 - McKay and Hay (Bill Hay) operated the claim for Beeman.
1905 - J. H. Beeman operated the mine for nine years, the heydays of production.
1912 - Frank, Wm. & P.H. Everett lease the mine for four years.
1915 - J. H. Beeman shut the mine down during WWI.
1920 - John Breeding leased it from Hattie Beeman, operated it periodically, and shut it down during the depression.
1936 - John Breeding leased the mine, installed a new power plant and ran it for three years.
1939 - Bill Fasel operated it for Hattie Beeman.
1940 - Shut down during WWII.
1950 - John Cole took up the claim, which had been held inactive by Joe's son J. Horton Beeman.
1962 - John Cole operated the mine as the "Gold Nugget" after purchasing the claim from Beeman for an unknown price.
1963 - A. L. Harrison bought it from Cole for $1.00 (one dollar) and operated it for 21 years.
1975 - Harrison ran the mill for the last time until the mill was worn out beyond economical repair.
1985 - Don Gammelgaard, Harrison's grandson inherited upon Harrison's death and tried to repair the stamp mill. He lived on the claim in a trailer for several years.
1993 - Claim was allowed to lapse. BLM had the buildings removed.
1994 - Jim Dodson took up the claim and reverted from hard rock to placer mining. He named it "Rose Marie".
1996 - BLM requested that the stamp mill be removed.
1997 - Flood destroyed most of the mill site. GHHS purchased the mill from Dodson and moved it, in pieces, to the Gold Hill Museum grounds for reconstruction.
1999 - Jim Dodson died. The GHHS has title to the mill and begins restoring it.
2001 - Restoration basically complete.
2002 - Fate of claim unknown at this time. Kelly Adams owns one deeded claim but it is no longer called the Lucky Bart.

The Gold Hill Historical Society would appreciate any input concerning operation of this mine and the miners' names.

References:

* *Gold Hill News*
* U.S. Geological Survey
* Gold & Silver in Oregon (Diller)
* Oregon Metal Mines Handbook
* Jackson County records
* Mining Wealth, Part 25 (1904)
* Gold Hill Historical Society
* Verbal accounts from old timers

Ted Wharton next to Stamp Mill on Museum Grounds in Gold Hill.

Photo by Cliff Finnie

Message from Cindy Tilley Faubion, newly-elected President:

To the members of GHHS:

So much has happened since our humble beginnings in the Gold Hill Public Library over a decade ago. I have been away physically for the last five years so that I could further my education, but I have always supported you, the membership, in spirit. Now I am back and I hope to make a positive contribution as so many of you have done before, during, and since my absence. I would like to ask all of you to try to invite one new person to join the Historical Society this year because each new member has the potential to bring us new information and can share their individual experiences about our community that quite possibly haven't been recorded yet. I understand how busy life keeps us all, that is why I am asking you to help Gold Hill Historical Society grow by recruiting new members.

Now I would like to ask for one more favor: I want your ideas. Please tell me what areas of local history you would like to see our society concentrate on. Do you have some good ideas for displays or do you have a wonderful story to share that hasn't been told? Maybe you have some precious memorobilia we could photograph for our archives? I would really appreciate it if you could send in your ideas, thoughts, and suggestions today.I may be serving as President of the Society this year, but it is you, **the membership**, who will decide our priorities. So, I eagerly await your input. Let's make this the best year yet.

All the best,
Cindy Tilley Faubion, President

COMING NEXT ISSUE:

1936 story by Ted Wharton: "Small Game Hunter's Paradise."

Newsletter Items

Your newsletter editor needs <u>your</u> news! Please let Gloria Wood in the Museum office know of any ideas/information/photos/tidbits you would like in a future issue of *Nuggets of News.*

Gold Hill Historical Society
Membership/Renewal/Volunteer Form

Name(s) _____

Street Address _____

Mailing Address (if different) _____

City, State, Zip _____

Telephone _____

☐ Family Membership $6.00 per year
New membership. Welcome!

☐ Family Renewal $6.00
Renewal. Thank you!

☐ Contribution

☐ Yes, I would like to volunteer

Return form to:

Gold Hill Historical Society
P. O. Box 26
504 First Avenue
Gold Hill OR 97525

SOCIETY GOALS

The Gold Hill Historical Society's goal is to collect, document, and preserve the history of the Gold Hill area through Oral Histories, Photographs, Artifacts, and Books.

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